

STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

(SACMHS)

May 10, 2005 – 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon
Country Inn & Suites - Lighthouse Room
5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

SACMHS Members Present: Allen Bartels, Beth Baxter, Cec Brady, Richard Ellis, Scot Ford, Dwain Fowler, Beverly Ferguson, Clint Hawkins, Lara Huskey, Nancy Kratky, Susan Krome, Dr. Maria Prendes-Lintel, Darlene Richards, Mary Ann Wells. 13 members were present at the start of the meeting. The chair noted a quorum was present.

SACMHS Members Absent: Jimmy Burke, Chris Hanus, Wesley Legan, Frank Lloyd, Beth Wierda

HHS Staff Present: Alexandra Castillo, Dan Powers,

Others Present: Blaine Shaffer, Jim Harvey, Melia Cooke

I. Agenda

Clint Hawkins motioned and Nancy Kratky seconded the motion to approve the May 10, 2005 State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services Agenda. Motion passed by Committee Members. The May 10, 2005 Agenda is approved as published by Committee members.

II. Approval of February 8, 2005 Minutes

Darlene Richard motioned and Nancy Kratky seconded the motion to approve the February 8, 2005 minutes as written. Motion passed by Committee Members. The minutes were approved as written by Committee members.

III. Report from Division of Behavioral Health Council

Allen Bartels referred to the Behavioral Health Council minutes that were mailed to the members prior to this meeting and asked other council members if they wanted to comment on the council meeting.

Nancy Kratky, stated she was pleased that the Mental Health Advisory Committee got recognition. Wayne Adamson asked about the process of election at the BH Council

Allen explained the process of election was related to the election of officers to the Council. Allen was assigned as Vice Chair to represent the Mental Health Advisory Committee. A member from each committee now serves as an officer to the council.

IV. Report from Division of Behavioral Health

Ron Sorensen is the Interim Administrator of Behavioral Health Services but is not able to attend the MH advisory meeting today due to scheduling conflicts. If someone has questions of him, he will be attending the BH Council meeting this afternoon and asks that you attend that meeting.

Status of Consumer Affairs Officers

- The position is still open but we do not have more specific information to offer.
- Job application for the position of Consumer Affairs Officers is closed. We are not sure of the total number of applications submitted.

Status of Administrator of the Division Behavioral Health Council

- The position is still open but we do not have more specific information to offer.
- Ron Sorensen is the interim administrator.
- Job application process is closed but we are not sure of the total number of applications submitted.

Grant Updates

- The Mental Health Grant application was submitted
- Mental Health Transformation Grant proposal writing is in progress and application will be made.
- Making proposal of suicide prevention is being added to child portion of the MH grant.
- Plan to apply for Dual disorder
- Application for second year of Data Infrastructure grant has been made
- Supplement grant is administrated by Public Health to be used for data analysis.
- Anxiety and depression data will be added (will it include adult & kid survey)

Consumer Activities

- MH Consumer conference will be held in Aurora Nebraska, September 20 – 22, 2005
The keynote speakers are; Tom Lane from Florida and Bonnie Pate from South Carolina.
Janssen Pharmaceuticals will provide a speaker, for the Making Choices Program.
The new Consumers Affair officer will be asked to make a presentation.
Call for presentations and Logo contest have been mailed. (See Attachment A)
- 2005 NAMI Conference Scholarship - The Conference is June 17-20, 2005 in Austin Texas. Twenty Six applications were received. The applications are now being reviewed and announcements of selected individuals will be mailed out June 1, 2005.

Legislative Update

- List of the Behavioral Health Council Legislative review of bills were distributed to the members (See Attachment B) For a complete copy of bill or other pertinent information please go to: <http://www.unicam.state.ne.us>
- Lara Husky stated LB40 is in select file. LB40 will add fifty cents to the Affordable Housing Trust fund and will add definition in statute of housing state related assistance.

State Rental Assistance Update

- Transition Voucher Program Guidelines (See Attachment C)
- The Division of Behavioral Health Services will contract with the BH Regional Authorities (Regions) to implement the State Rental Assistance Transition Voucher Program beginning in July 1, 2005.
- Regional Governing Boards have to make a choice formally to or not to handle the Rental Assistance program or they need to contract or do a bid process.
- First year of implementation will include many discussions related to many different situations and how to cover them all.

V. Review and Discussion of Unmet Needs/gaps to be included in 2006 MH Block Grant Application.

- Application Fact Sheet for FY2005 MH Block Grant (See Attachment D)
- Unmet Needs/gaps are:
- #1, The Discrepancy between Prevalence of Mental Illness and Number of Individuals Served by System.
- #2, Developmentally Appropriate Services for Youth in Transition.
- #3, Lack of Adequate "Step Down" Services.
- #4, Information System is Inadequate
- #5, Shortage of Credentialed and Administrative Staff
- #6, Medication Access
- #7, Culturally Competent Services
- #8, Elderly Population Not Being Served
- #9, Mentally ill Inmates Discharging from the State Correctional System. This gap to be discussed as a possible gap addition. (See Attachment E)

Discussion of Mentally Ill Inmates and working with Department of Corrections to decide what should be included. Specific concerns voiced were;

- What happens when the inmate is discharged? They go into community & if they need services, they need to search for services.
- 15% of inmates may have mental health illness but are not diagnosed.
- Inmates discharged mandatory are lacking the help received in the transition process.
- After discharging they are on their own.
- If the mandatory discharged is zip code related, it's a bad method.
- There are restriction of information once an inmate is released
- Medical and treatment information occurring prior to release can be accessed at the request of the released inmate.
- Many inmates are released without ever having been diagnosed.
- Inmates JAM out to avoid reporting to parole officers and do not seek resources.
- Medicaid plans to ID inmates who are or have been Medicaid eligible, so when they are discharged, Medicaid can be reactivated at that time.

Other comments:

- Gap # 5 and Gap # 9 could be coordinated. Re: lack of sufficient credentialed staff
- Why are the numbers the same as last year? The Federal Uniform Reporting Data collected was first used last year. The data is not necessarily correct but is required to be used. Increase in numbers will not increase funds we receive.

Richard Ellis motioned and Clint Hawkins seconded the motion to accept Gaps 1-8 as written. Motion passed by Committee Members unanimously.

The issue is the identification and treatment of inmates with mental illness currently incarcerated. And Coordination of Correction and Behavioral Health services once the inmate is discharged and is back in the community. Department of Corrections is doing assessments, but we have no information what that Includes. Once Gap #9 is added, the issue will be researched.

Maria Prendes-Lintel motioned and Darlene Richards seconded add Gap #9, in support for the treatment of inmates and follow up treatment of discharged inmates.

Released inmates

- What treatment do inmates received?
- There are restrictions on information of inmates once released.
- Treatment and searches of resources is on a volunteer basis by the released inmate.
- If there is a level of treatment prior to release, inmates can continue on a volunteer basis.
- Update from corrections is needed on what inmates have available to them upon release.
- Is there a mandate treatment of released sex and serious crime offenders? Mandates are ordered at the time of sentencing by the judge.

Other comments related to other Gaps and MH Block Grant:

- Gap # 4, is the system still inadequate? This gap should be retained.
- By adding gaps are we taking away from other resources? All Gaps should be identified as needed and not on how long it takes.
- Gap #3, re: Step down services, what is the modification. The Gaps refer to what is missing but also needs to be more reflective of the current system.
- Gap # 9, released inmates have special needs – to be discussed at the BH council with the Substance Abuse and Gambling committees.
- Gap # 3, statement needs to be added (page 6) referring to chronic homelessness.
- There has been public criticism of not enough notification time to the public of the Mental Health Block grant to review the draft before the grant is submitted. Copy of Grant is available to committee members and on the HHS web site

<http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/beh/mh/mh.htm> one week prior to advisory committee meeting date. Information regarding mental health, behavioral health and MH housing information can also be found on this web site.

- The deadline for the 2006 MH Block grant is September 1, 2005.
- The implementation report will be reviewed at the November meeting.
- Assignments for input to the block grant are based on experience and knowledge of specific areas covered in the Block grant.
- Maria Prendes-Lintel volunteered to help with inputting information regarding the section of cultural competency.
- Does the age breakdown come from the federal database? Yes. Could we have transition age process for ages of 16-22? Jim will talk with Sue Adams on what can be done and what information is available covering ages 16-22.

VI. Mission and Values Discussion

Allen Bartels asked all members to review the Mission, Vision and Values that are in place. The main role is to receive information, discuss and decide what input to offer to the BH council. Are we as a committee meeting the mission and values? This will be an agenda item for next meeting, please take time and make notes to be review and discuss them.

VII. Agenda Item

Subjects of interest to discuss for the next meeting are;

- Social Security discussion on how to transition from Medicare to Medicaid
- Safeguard information given to caregivers on possible symptoms of medication
- Education, what is being done?

There are two vacancies, one of the BH Council and the MH Advisory Committee.

Are these positions Governor appointments? These vacancies are designated to be filled by the HHS Administrator. Vacancies of the BH Council & MH Advisory committee were created when Richard DeLiberty resigned.

Comment:

There is a shortage of Mental Health consumer representation on the BH Council and would like to know if the vacancy could be filled at least at an interim level.

Lara Huskey motion and Dwain Fowler seconded the motion to suspend the rules to allow us to vote on the issues of requesting to fill the vacancy of BH Council interim until permanent appointment is made. Motion passed by Committee Members unanimously.

Lara Huskey motioned and Clint Hawkins seconded the motion to provide a recommendation to the Governor's office to fill the BH Council vacancy if only on an interim basis. Motion passed by Committee Members unanimously. The Governor's office will be contacted regarding the vacancy of the BH council

Clint Hawkins volunteered to serve as interim BH Council Member if Governor agrees.

XI. Public Comment

None given

XII. Next State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services

August 9, 2005 - 9:00 am to Noon
Country Inns & Suites, 5353 No. 27th St, Lincoln, Nebraska
Lighthouse Board Room

XIII. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.